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The Complaint

What is it to complain? The definition of complain is to express dissatisfaction or annoyance about something. There are so many other words that marry with complain like grumble, moan, or whine. What does this have to do with this Parshah?

In the Parshah it says, “And when the people complained...” What kind of people complain after just being freed from slavery? What kind of people grumble about the food they have, requesting the food they had in slavery, which they claim was better.

The nation may have been evil at this time in history. One would have thought that the proper response would have been to say, “thank you”.

This is Rashi's response. When the Children of Israel are evil, they are referred to as “this nation”. When their behavior is appropriate, they are referred to as “My People”.

I often say to people that “I am the complaint department”. I've learned that there are many different types of complainers. There are those who complain just for the sake of complaining. There are those who complain looking for a change that benefits them. And then there are those who complain to bring change for a greater group.

There are valid reasons for each type of complainer. Just remember, complaining uses language and the language used could be slanderous or libel.

The type of language in a complaint must be honest and never hurt anyone or anything. Anyone, is a person but what would anything be? Anything could be something as simple as The State of Israel or The United States.

Just remember when you complain be part of the solution and not the problem.

Good Shabbos!

Rabbi Nathan W. Langer

